

NOTE ON BEHAVIOR AND DISTRIBUTION OF MELITTOMA SERICEUM HARRIS (COLEOPTERA: LYMEXYLONIDAE)

On July 2, 1962, about two miles southeast of Henry, Marshall County, Illinois, in the north central part of the State, Glenn observed a male of *Melittoma sericeum* at a black light. While it was resting on a sheet suspended back of the light, the beetle was noted contracting and expanding the lateral flabellate appendage which arises from a notch at the apex of the expanded second segment of the maxillary palpus. This behavior was so conspicuous that it was thought at the time of observation that the structure was part of the antenna. Observations of similar behavior appear not to have been recorded for this species, and the function of this behavior is unknown. This was the only individual of this species that Glenn noted in nearly 35 years of collecting Lepidoptera and Coleoptera in Putnam and adjacent Marshall Counties. Glenn used the black light for the first season in 1962. It is possible that the species has occurred in this locality for many years but was not attracted to white lights which were used.

Scanning the literature disclosed no previous record of *Melittoma sericeum* for Illinois. However, a female of this species, simply labeled "Ill.," had been in the collection of the State Natural History Survey for many years. There is also a new Tennessee record given to us by Dr. R. L. Wenzel, Chicago Museum of Natural History; Bernard Benesh took one specimen at Deer Lodge, Tennessee, July 25, 1932. Other States for which the species has been recorded are: Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Alabama, and Indiana. It seems to be everywhere rare although Champlain and Knull (*Can. Ent.* 55:112, 1923) and Craighead (*U.S.D.A. Misc. Publ.* 675:220, 1950) recorded the larvae as formerly being very destructive to chestnut.

In addition to chestnut, the larvae of *Melittoma sericeum* are recorded as living in oak logs. Chestnut is known to grow under native conditions in Illinois only in Pulaski County in the southern tip of the State. However, it was more widely distributed under cultivation before the advent of chestnut blight.—MILTON W. SANDERSON, *State Natural History Survey, Urbana, Illinois*, and MURRAY O. GLENN, *Henry, Illinois*.



CURRENT RESEARCH PROGRAMS

These announcements of research underway on beetles are not meant to be requests for specimens or information unless stated to the contrary; a letter to the researcher will determine whether or not specimens or information are wanted. All research workers are invited to send notices of research in progress to the Editor.

CURCULIONIDAE: Revision of *Anthonomus* of North and Central America. By H. R. Burke, Dept. of Entomology, A. and M. College of Texas, College Station, Texas.

CURCULIONIDAE: Revision of *Tachygonus*. By Finley B. Negley, Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry, Harrisburg, Penna.

STAPHYLINIDAE: Revision of generic classification of Aleocharinae. By C. H. Seevers, Biology Dept. Roosevelt Univ., Chicago 5, Ill.

TENEBRIONIDAE: Revision of *Palorus*. By D. G. H. Halstead, Pest Infestation Laboratory, London Road, Slough, Bucks., England.

BEETLE TALK

Coleopterists of the District of Columbia attended the First Annual LeConte Memorial Birthday Party at the U. S. National Museum on May 13, 1963.